

SOUTH UNIMAK AND SHUMAGIN ISLANDS
JUNE SALMON FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN, 2002

By

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ABSTRACT

The South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fisheries will be limited to no more than three 16-hour fishing periods by seine and drift gillnet gear in any seven days. Fishing will not be allowed on more than two consecutive days for seine and drift gillnet gear. Set gillnet gear may fish during daily 16-hour periods as long as the daily sockeye *Oncorhynchus nerka* to chum salmon *O. keta* ratio from the commercial catch is equal to, or greater than, the previous 10-year average through June 24. After June 24, fishing time for set gillnet gear will be the same as for seine and drift gillnet gear. After June 24, if the sockeye to chum salmon ratio falls below 2:1, the next fishing period will be for only six hours and if the ratio falls below two sockeye per chum salmon for two consecutive fishing days, the fishery will be closed for the remainder of June. Prior to June 25, the fishing periods for seine and drift gillnet will be the same in both the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands.

INTRODUCTION

This document is intended to provide commercial fishermen and processors with information that the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) will use to manage the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June salmon fisheries. During the most recent 10 years, the South Unimak sockeye salmon *Oncorhynchus nerka* harvest has averaged 1,171,141 fish (Table 1) while the Shumagin Islands harvest averaged 400,991 fish (Table 2). The combined South Unimak and Shumagin Islands average sockeye salmon harvest during 1992-2001 was 1,572,132 fish (Table 3).

The first fishing period for set gillnet gear will be from 6:00 AM until 10:00 PM on June 10 in both the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands fisheries. The first fishing period for seine and drift gillnet gear may be between June 10 and 12.

Inseason announcements will be broadcast over AM radio station KSDP in Sand Point, VHF channels 6 and 73, and on Single Side Band (SSB) frequencies 3.230, 3.261, and 4.125 MHz. Information may also be obtained over the ADF&G record-a-phone in Sand Point at 383-2334 (383-ADFG).

As required by 5 AAC 39.130, (a)(3) buyers must report daily their salmon purchases by species (in both numbers of fish and pounds), and number of deliveries by gear type to either the ADF&G office in Cold Bay or Sand Point. Processors must provide the department with catch reports before 9:30 AM on the morning after a fishing period ends. Contact can be made over VHF 6, SSB 3.230 or 3.261 MHz. Buyers may also phone or fax their information to either the Cold Bay or Sand Point office.

Cold Bay	Telephone: 532-2419	Fax: 532-2470
Sand Point	Telephone: 383-2066	Fax: 383-2606

Fish tickets must be delivered to the ADF&G offices in Cold Bay or Sand Point (addresses listed below) within seven days of the purchase date or be hand delivered to an ADF&G representative on the fishing grounds, or as otherwise specified by the department for each particular area and fishery.

Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game
P.O. Box 50
Cold Bay, AK 99571

Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game
P.O. Box 129
Sand Point, AK 99661

REGULATORY CHANGES MADE BY THE ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES AT THE JANUARY 2001 MEETING

During their January 2001 meeting, the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) made the following regulation changes to the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fishery:

1. Eliminated the sockeye salmon guideline harvest levels.

2. Eliminated the chum salmon *O. keta* guideline harvest levels.
3. Limited fishing time to no more than 16 hours per day by any gear group.
4. Limited total fishing time by seine and drift gillnet gear to no more than 48 hours in a floating seven day period with no more than two 16-hour periods on consecutive days in any seven day period.
5. From June 10 through June 24, set gillnet gear may fish on consecutive days for 16-hour fishing periods in the South Unimak and/or Shumagin Islands fisheries as long as the set gillnet sockeye to chum salmon ratio in that fishery is equal to or greater than the recent 10-year average for that fishery. If the set gillnet sockeye to chum salmon ratio falls below the recent 10-year average in one of the fisheries, that fishery will be closed for one period. From June 10 through June 24, daily fishing periods for set gillnet gear will be from 6:00 AM until 10:00 PM.
6. Purse seine and drift gillnet fishing periods through June 24 will occur simultaneously in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands fisheries.
7. After June 24 in either the South Unimak or Shumagin Islands fishery, if the ratio of sockeye to chum salmon by all gear combined is 2:1 or less on any day, the next fishing period shall be of six hours duration for all gear in that fishery. If the sockeye to chum salmon ratio is 2:1 or greater, the fishing period can be extended to a maximum of 16 hours. The South Unimak or Shumagin Islands fishery shall be closed for the remainder of June to all gear groups if the ratio of sockeye to chum salmon is two to one or less for two consecutive fishing periods.

MANAGEMENT PLAN

The South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Fishery Management Plan is in effect from June 10 through June 30. Historically, sockeye salmon abundance peaks between June 13 and June 22, and usually declines rapidly after June 22.

All daily fishing periods will be for 16 hours, from 6:00 AM until 10:00 PM, except that after June 24 if the sockeye to chum salmon ratio falls below 2:1, the following fishing period will be six hours. Prior to June 25, fishing time for seiners in the Shumagin Islands and seiners and drift gillnetters at South Unimak will be the same.

The South Unimak fishery includes the following locations (Figure 1):

- A. Unimak District as described in 5 AAC 09.200 (c).
- B. Bechevin Bay Section of the Northwestern District as described in 5 AAC 09.200 (b) (2).

- C. Ikatan Bay Section of the Southwestern District as described in 5 AAC 09.200 (d) (1).
- D. Those waters of the Southwestern District, in addition to the Ikatan Bay Section, listed below: This does not include CLOSED WATERS as described under 5 AAC 09.350.
 - 1. Those waters north and west of a line from Cape Pankof Light to Thin Point (54° 57.32'N lat., 162° 33.50' W long.).
 - 2. Those waters enclosed by a line from Thin Point to the northern tip of Stag Point (54° 59.10'N lat., 162° 18.10'W long.) on Deer Island to Dolgoi Cape (55° 03.15' N lat., 161° 44'.35' W long.) and from Bluff Point (55° 09.93' N lat., 161° 53.72' W long.) to Arch Point (55° 12.30' N lat., 161° 54.30' W long.).

The Shumagin Islands fishery includes only the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District (Figure 2) as described in 5 AAC 09.200 (f) (3). DESCRIPTION OF DISTRICTS AND SECTIONS.

Fishermen should be aware that waters closed to commercial salmon fishing, as specified under 5 AAC 09.350 in the regulation book, are in effect during June. Gillnet fishermen are reminded that the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fisheries are the only fisheries in the South Peninsula that have no minimum salmon gillnet mesh size.

The initial fishing period for seiners and drift gillnetters will be between June 10 and June 12. The first fishing period for set gillnet gear will be on June 10. Set gillnetters should report their sockeye to chum salmon ratios to the ADF&G at Cold Bay or Sand Point between 6:30 and 7:00 PM each evening during a fishing period over VHF channel 6 (also 73 at Sand Point) or on SSB frequencies 3.230 or 3.261 MHZ. If the reports indicate the sockeye to chum salmon ratio is greater than or equal to the recent 10-year average, the fishery will reopen for 16 hours during the following day. If the fishery is reopened on the following day (day 2), but reports from the processors result in a sockeye to chum salmon ratio below the recent 10-year average, then the fishery will be closed during the next day (day 3). If the number of verbal sockeye to chum salmon ratio reports is insufficient, ADF&G will assume that the ratio is less than the previous 10-year average and the fishery will remain closed to set gillnet gear during the following day. The average set gillnet sockeye to chum salmon ratios for 1992-2001 is 9.1:1 at South Unimak and 14.0:1 in the Shumagin Islands (Table 4).

In the past, large numbers of immature chum salmon have been harvested by seiners. If large numbers of immature salmon are harvested, those locations where the immature salmon were harvested will be closed to seining for the remainder of June or until information shows that the abundance of immature salmon declined to an acceptable level.

Table 1. South Unimak June commercial salmon harvest, in number of fish, by species, 1992-2001.

Year	Number of Fish ^a				
	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
1992	2,373	2,046,022	3	501,127	323,891
1993	4,587	2,366,573	506	37,735	381,941
1994	4,468	1,001,250	1,271	1,731,741	374,409
1995	7,850	1,451,490	5,102	119,094	342,307
1996	1,228	572,495	11,730	146,799	129,889
1997	3,041	1,179,179	501	332,262	196,016
1998	1,259	974,628	312	125,906	195,454
1999	2,258	1,106,208	1	20,302	186,886
2000	2,047	892,016	303	210,506	168,604
2001	134	121,547	2	31,812	36,099
1992-2001					
Average	2,925	1,171,141	1,973	325,728	233,550

^a Numbers of salmon do not include test fish catches.

Table 2. Shumagin Islands June commercial salmon harvest, in number of fish, by species, 1992-2001.

Year	Number of Fish ^a				
	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
1992	1,387	411,834	1	140,963	102,312
1993	4,879	607,171	727	43,401	150,306
1994	3,122	460,013	308	760,773	207,756
1995	6,897	653,831	940	59,541	195,126
1996	1,617	456,475	1,489	230,885	229,931
1997	2,770	449,002	59	273,675	126,309
1998	1,437	314,097	164	348,434	50,165
1999	793	269,191	1	10,237	58,420
2000	785	359,212	1	149,508	70,463
2001	211	29,085	0	7,439	12,251
1992-2001					
Average	2,390	400,991	369	202,486	120,304

^a Numbers of salmon do not include test fish catches.

Table 3. Combined South Umanak-Shumagin Islands June commercial salmon harvest, in number of fish, by species, 1992-2001.

Year	Number of Fish ^a				
	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
1992	3,760	2,457,856	4	642,090	426,203
1993	9,466	2,973,744	1,233	81,136	532,247
1994	7,590	1,461,263	1,579	2,492,514	582,165
1995	14,747	2,105,321	6,042	178,635	537,433
1996	2,845	1,028,970	13,219	377,684	359,820
1997	5,811	1,628,181	560	605,937	322,325
1998	2,696	1,288,725	476	474,340	245,619
1999	3,051	1,375,399	2	30,539	245,306
2000	2,832	1,251,228	304	360,014	239,067
2001	345	150,632	2	39,251	48,350
1992-2001					
Average	5,314	1,572,132	2,342	528,214	353,854

^a Numbers of salmon do not include test fish catches.

Table 4. South Unimak-Shumagin Islands June fisheries sockeye and chum salmon commercial harvest by set gillnet gear, 1992-2001.

Year	South Unimak		Shumagin Islands	
	Sockeye	Chum	Sockeye	Chum
1992	88,068	3,773	37,576	3,803
1993	66,304	8,323	75,913	3,146
1994	56,900	5,593	113,090	7,179
1995	47,097	8,393	120,879	12,232
1996	23,247	2,270	114,158	9,482
1997	108,005	9,371	110,199	7,891
1998	48,100	6,111	158,881	10,701
1999	36,553	5,849	69,083	3,981
2000	54,330	7,348	81,238	3,889
2001	8,841	1,747	4,380	849
Average	53,745	5,878	88,540	6,315
Average Sockeye to Chum Salmon Ratio,				
1992-2001	9.1:1		14.0:1	

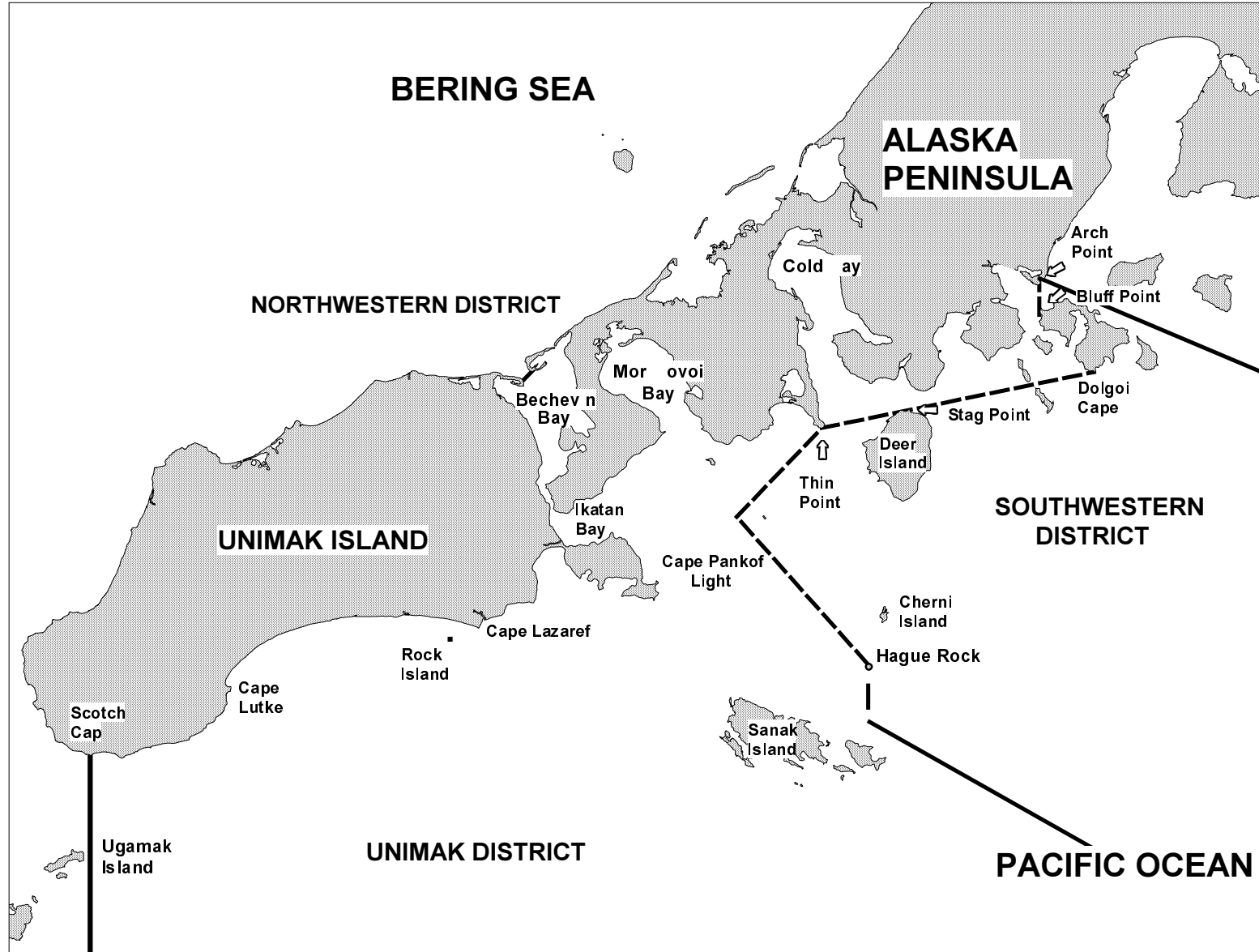


Figure 1. Map of the south Unimak June fishery.

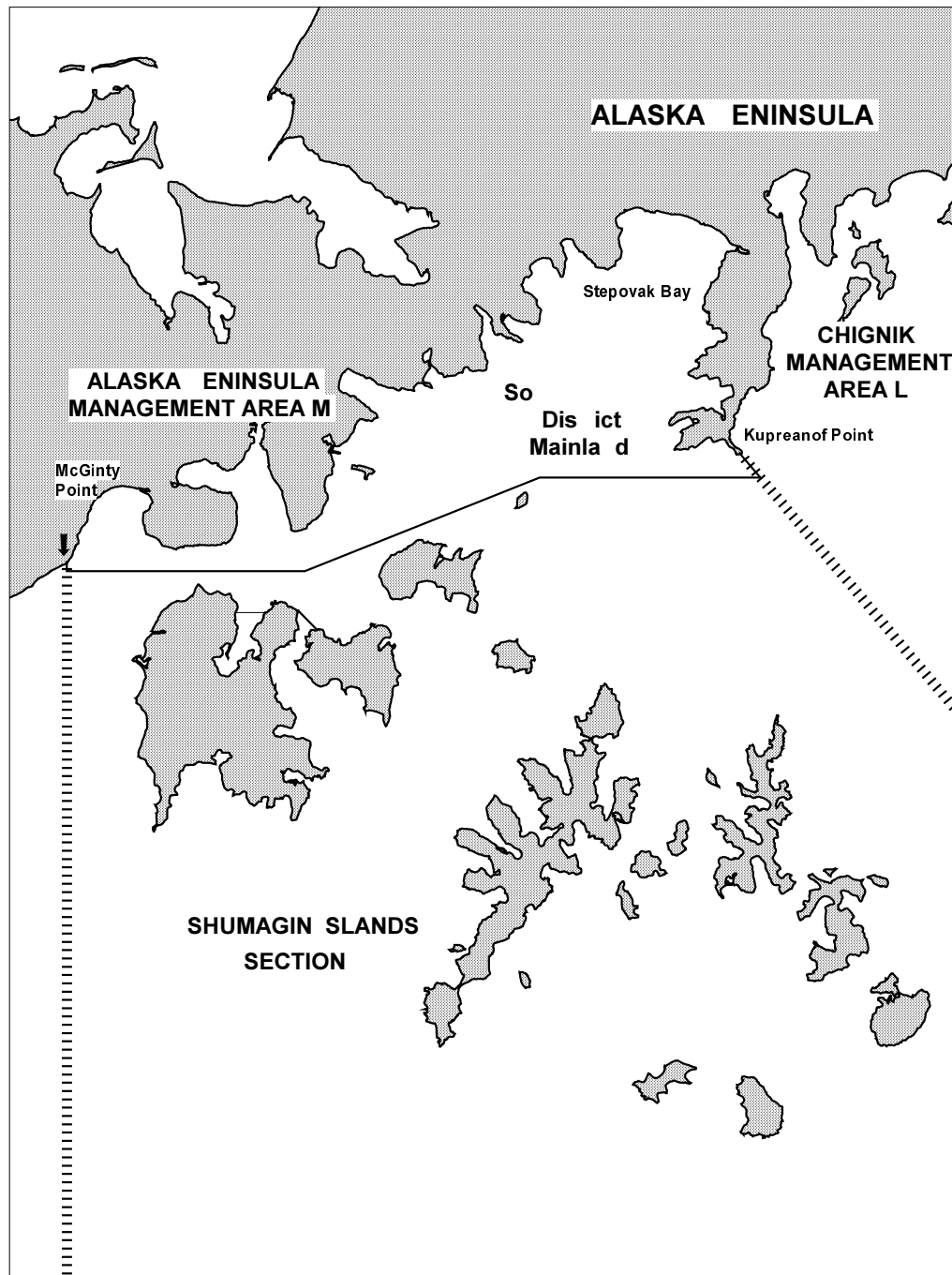


Figure 2. map of the Shumagin Islands Section.

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